

# ***Fogland Beach Oversight Committee***

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

### **April 9, 2014**

Members present: T. Ramotowski (Chairman; Conservation Commission), C. Lima (Neighborhood Representative), C. Clarendon (Harbor Commission); M. Wojcik (Town Administrator) and M. Van Hof (Open Space Commission).

Members absent: C. Roemlein (Recreation Commission) and S. Berlucci (Director of Public Works).

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ramotowski at 5:08 PM.

I. Public Delegations: There were no public delegations.

II. Approval of Minutes: There were no minutes for approval.

III. Recent Physical Changes at Fogland:

#### *Plantings on New Beach Dunes*

Work by the Department of Public works to encourage the formation of beach dunes using wooden snow fencing was discussed.

The area near the attendant's shack is very wet and may need some drainage work to prevent water from accumulating in that area.

Mr. Clarendon noted that Three Rod Way had been inundated during recent storms and such events are expected to happen with greater frequency due to the rising sea level. The Town should make plans to prepare for more frequent flooding, possibly by elevating the roadway.

Mr. Van Hof stated that the types of plants that should be planted on the new dunes to help stabilize them cost about \$1.00 per plant. Beach grass is also available. Volunteers to help with the planting would need to be identified, along with a source of funding for the purchase of the plants.

Mr. Clarendon noted that a significant amount of trash was being left at Fogland, mostly along the road. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of handing out trash bags to beach visitors so that garbage would be collected and not thrown on the ground.

IV. Fogland Boat Ramp Agreement – Discussion with Town Council: Chairman Ramotowski reported that he had discussed the issue of the boat ramp

agreement expiring at the end of 2014 with the Town Council at its recent meeting. It is not clear if RI-DEM would be interested in enetering into a new agreement with the Town. If a new agreement is not signed, then people from out-of-town using the boat ramp can be charged for parking vehicles and boat trailers on Town-owned property at Fogland. The Town Council took no action on this issue at their meeting.

V. Dogs in the Conservation Area: Discussion with the Town Council: It was noted that the list of regulations normally attached to the side of the attendant's shack needed to be updated to address the "roaming dogs" issue. The section of the Town Code that covers activities allowed/not allowed at Fogland (Chapter 54) needs to be updated to ban unleashed dogs from the conservation area.

Mr. Clarendon stated that he had recently encountered an individual trapping rabbits in the conservation area. When confronted, the individual stated that he had a permit from the State to trap rabbits. Chairman Ramotowski pointed out that Chapter 54 of the Town Code prohibits removing material from the conservation area without permission from the Conservation Commission. No one has permission to hunt or trap in that area. Chapter 54 may need to be revised to make it clear that hunting is not allowed in the conservation area.

Mr. Clarendon noted that there was damage to the fence enclosing the playground, possibly by a car trying to squeeze between the fence and the adjacent sand dune. He also noted a large block of concrete had been dumped onto the beach.

VI. Future of the Committee: Chairman Ramotowski noted that many of the original tasks assigned to the Committee at its time of creation by the Town Council had been accomplished and that Committee members needed to think of possibly wrapping up the Committee's assigned work over the next year or so in preparation to possibly deactivating the Committee.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM

Respectfully submitted,

T. Ramotowski, Chairman